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Application Serial No.: 10/673,390
Amendment and Response to September 26, 2006 Final Office Action

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 7, 9 - 17, 20 and 21 are in the application. Claims 1, 20, and 21 are currently amended; claims 2 - 7 and 9 - 17 were previously presented; and claims 8, 18, and 19 are canceled. Claims 1, 20 and 21 are the independent claims herein.

No new matter has been added to the application. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 - 7, 9 - 17, and 20 - 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Diacakis et al., U.S. Publication No. 2002/0116336 (hereafter, Diacakis). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding the rejection of claim 1, Applicant claim 1 relates to a method that includes receiving a request to make a change to a new identity context for an identity wherein the identity context is associated with the identity and provides an availability status of the identity; and mapping the new identity context to a device context for a specific device associated with the identity wherein the device context provides an availability status of the specific device. Clearly, the claimed device context provides an availability status of a specific device. Furthermore, the claim clearly states that the identity context is mapped to the device context.

Applicant respectfully notes that claims 20 (reciting an article of manufacture) and claim 21 (reciting an apparatus) are worded similar to claim 1 regarding the claimed identity context, the device context, and mapping the identity context to the device context.

Thus, each of Applicant's independent claims recite a device context that provides an availability of status of a specific device, and an aspect of mapping the identity context to the device context. Since the device context relates to the availability of a specific device, the claimed mapping of the identity context to the device context

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provides a mechanism to associate and correlate the availability of an identity with a specific device's availability.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited and relied upon Diacakis does not disclose or suggest, at least, the claimed device context and the mapping of the identity context to a device context for a specific device associated with the identity, wherein the device context provides an availability status of the specific device. Applicant reiterates that the claimed device context provides an indication of a status of a specific device.

Diacakis discloses, "the presence engine 18 may ascertain the individual's presence on each of the monitored networks" (emphasis added) (See Diacakis, paragraph [0055]). Further, Diacakis discloses a method and system where "the individual may define a series of profiles that describe a situation that the individual may be in" (paragraph [0031], ln. 17-20); "an individual may have an office profile.... The individual may specify which persons belong to each access level for each profile." (paragraph [0032]); "P&A management system server 12 detects a change in, for example, the individual's situation" (paragraph [0034]); "P&A management server 12 detects that the individual is at work, the server 12 transmits the individual's updated P&A information to the clients 22" (paragraph [0035]); and "the presence detection engine 18 may determine additional information about the individual (paragraph [0045]).

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited and relied upon Diacakis does not disclose or suggest, at least, the claimed mapping a new identity context to a device context for a specific device associated with an identity, wherein the device context provides an availability status of the specific device; and providing data indicative of the mapped identity context. Applicant emphasizes that the claimed device context relates to a specific device and provides an indication of an availability status of the specific device.

In contrast to claims 1, 20, and 21, Diacakis clearly discloses determining a presence of an individual (or a group of individuals) on a communication network and an availability of the individual on the communication network. (See Diacakis, Abstract

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and paragraphs [0026], [0028], and [0031]) Diacakis discloses, "the P&A management server 12 detects that the individual is at work, the server transmits the individual's updated P&A information" (i.e., presence of individual) The presence detection engine 18 receives various inputs to determine the individual's presence (Diacakis, paragraph[0040]) As explained at Diacakis paragraphs [0042] – [0043], various hardware devices may provide information to facilitate the determining of the presence of the individual.

Diacakis discloses, "[T]he presence detection engine 18 may determine an individual's presence upon particular networks based on various inputs, as described further hereinbelow. The presence detection engine 18 may transmit the presence information to the availability management engine 20, which in turn may determine the individual's availability based on the presence information as well as additional information, such as the individual's situation and defined rules and preferences. The determined availability information may then be transmitted to subscribers of the individual's availability information via the network 16, as described previously." (Diacakis, paragraph [0038])

Thus, Diacakis may provide an availability of an individual and the availability of the individual on one or more communication networks. However, Diacakis does not disclose or suggest mapping a new identity context to a device for a specific device associated with the identity, wherein the device context provides an availability status of the specific device. Again, Diacakis does not disclose the claimed device context for a specific device associated with the identity.

Applicant reiterates that Diacakis determines an availability of an individual and the availability of a communication network but fails to disclose or suggest the availability of a "specific device". As illustrated in FIG. 8, Diacakis interprets the availability of a contact (e.g., Jonathan) by providing an indication of Jonathan's availability on two communication networks, i.e., IM system ("IM" symbol) and telephone network (phone icon). Diacakis assumes that the individual is available based on the contact's detected presence on the two communication networks.

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (408) 492-5336.

Respectfully submitted,

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